

CALIFORNIA POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION COMMISSION



PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Daniel Parker
Public Information
California Postsecondary Education Commission
1303 J Street, Suite 500
Sacramento, California 95814-2938
Dparker@cpec.ca.gov
916-322-8025

Standardized Tests for College Admissions to be addressed by National Educators and Experts at the Postsecondary Education Commission's June Meeting in the State Capital

May 30, 2001– Sacramento – The California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC) will hear from several nationally known educators and experts about the use of standardized testing as part of the college admission and application process in a Sacramento forum on Monday June 4 at 1:00 p.m. It marks the first time advocates and critics of the tests have appeared on the same program. The session will lead off the Commission's two-day meeting that will be held at the Sacramento Convention Center 1400 J Street, Room 202 Sacramento, California 95814.

According to Warren H. Fox, Commission executive director, the session on standardized testing is intended to give the 16-member higher education commission a more thorough understanding of the issues involved and how to best address them. Fox said the speakers would be:

- **Richard C. Atkinson, president of the University of California;**
- **Richard Ferguson, president of ACT, based in Iowa City, Iowa;**
- **Gaston Caperton*, former governor of West Virginia, president and CEO of The College Board; and**
- **Nicholas Lemann, author of *The Big Test: The Secret History of the American Meritocracy* (2000), has also written the award-winning *The Promised Land: The Great Black Migration and How It Changed America* (1991).**

**Governor Caperton will speak Tuesday morning.*

–more–

“For students, parents, teachers and college admissions officers, standardized tests can be valuable tools in the process of gauging student achievement,” said Commission Chair Alan Arkatov, “just how such tests are used in the college application process, their value as well as their validity and reliability, is often an issue posed by critics of standardized tests.”

Arkatov said this is the first time that this distinguished group of educational and opinion leaders has gathered in the state with the largest collegiate enrollment in the nation. He observed that Commission session would address issues like student eligibility for college, the use of such tests for college admissions, and the importance of high school grade point averages, and programmatic preparation.

Commission Vice Chair Carol Chandler stated that it is the Commission’s role “and in the best interest of California’s students that the Postsecondary Education Commission focus on the long-term agenda on the important issues of standardized testing.” During the two days of meeting, the Commission will address a number of other issues including pending state and federal legislation, the state budget, compensation of executives in public colleges and universities, development of educational leaders, and a proposal for a new community college education center in Fontana.

The Commission is the state’s independent higher education coordinating and planning body. It consists of 16 members, nine of whom represent the general public, five who represent the major systems of California education (the California Community Colleges, the California State University, the University of California, the independent colleges and universities, and the State Board of Education), and two student representatives. Further information about higher education in California and a complete copy of the Commission’s June meeting agenda may be obtained through the website of the Postsecondary Education Commission at <http://www.cpec.ca.gov>.

For more information see [Standardized Testing June 2001 Agenda Item](#)